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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application, as evidenced by the Official Action. The Official Action rejects all of the pending claims, namely Claims 33-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,787,403 to Randle, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,285 to Damico et al. More particularly, the Official Action alleges that the Randle patent discloses a method for managing information using an intermediary gateway device having a corresponding network address, where the method includes receiving a request to communicate with a datastore having a network address, providing access to the datastore through the intermediary gateway device. While the Official Action concedes that the Randle patent does not disclose modifying the network address of the datastore to incorporate the address of the intermediary gateway device, as recited by the claimed invention, the Official Action alleges that the Damico patent discloses this feature. In this regard, the Official Action alleges that one skilled in the art would be motivated to modify the system of the Randle patent to include the address modification feature of the Damico patent to track user paths on the Web to determine the identity of the entity that directed the user to the current Web site for transactional purposes.

As explained below, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention of the present application is patentably distinct from the Randle and Damico patents, taken individually or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of all of the pending claims as being unpatentable over the Randle and Damico patents. Thus, in light of the remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims of the present application.

As recited by independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51 and 53-56 of the present application, methods, computers, computer-readable mediums and apparatuses are provided for managing information. As recited, a request to communicate with a network-accessible datastore is received. Then, access is provided to the network-accessible datastore through an intermediary gateway device using a network address (URL) incorporating the address (URL) of the network-accessible datastore and an address (URL) of an intermediary

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gateway device. In this regard, the address (URL) of the network-accessible datastore is modified to incorporate the address (URL) of the intermediary gateway device.

In contrast to the claimed invention of independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51 and 53-56, and in contrast to the allegation of the Official Action, the Randle patent does not teach or suggest providing access to a network-accessible datastore through an intermediary gateway device having a network address. The Randle patent discloses a bank-centric service platform that provides an access gateway from a bank at a central location to non-bank information, products and services of providers not otherwise related to the bank. The Randle patent does not disclose that the access gateway has a network address, as does the intermediary gateway device of the claimed invention. In further contrast to the claimed invention of the present application, as conceded by the Official Action, the Randle patent does not teach or suggest modifying the network address of the datastore to incorporate the address of the intermediary gateway device.

However, the Official Action alleges that the Damico patent discloses this feature, and that one skilled in the art would be motivated to modify the system of the Randle patent to include the address modification feature of the Damico patent to track user paths on the Web to determine the identity of the entity that directed the user to the current Web site for transactional purposes. In contrast to the Official Action, Applicants respectfully submit that not only does the Damico patent not disclose the address-modification feature, the Randle and Damico patents could not properly be combined for the motivation suggested by the Official Action even if the Damico patent did disclose the address modification feature.

As previously explained, the Damico patent discloses an apparatus and method for capturing and storing a co-marketer identification symbol representing the identity of an entity that has referred a user to a computer service. As disclosed, a co-marketer WWW site forms a destination URL including a URL associated with an on-line service (OLS), a destination file and a co-marketer symbol or code. In this regard, the destination URL does include the URL of the OLS, which may correspond to a network-accessible datastore. The destination URL does not include, however, an address of the co-marketer. Instead, the destination URL includes a destination file and a co-marketer symbol or code, neither of which reflects the address (URL) of

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the co-marketer. While it could be asserted that the co-marketer symbol or code reflects the address of the co-marketer, the Damico patent clearly defines the co-marketer symbol or code as uniquely representing the identity of the co-marketer such that the symbol or code can be recognized by the OLS whenever the user connects to the OLS. Based upon the definition of the co-marketer symbol or code, then, the symbol or code does not reflect the address of the co-marketer, but instead identifies the co-marketer to the OLS. Also, considering that the Damico system principally operates to capture and track a co-marketer source of new subscribers to an OLS, the Damico system has no need to modify the destination URL to incorporate the address of the co-marketer as opposed to a co-marketer symbol or code, particularly as some URL's can be quite cumbersome.

Moreover, even if the Damico patent did disclose modifying the network address of the datastore to incorporate the address of the intermediary gateway device, Applicants respectfully submit that the Randle system could not properly be modified to include the address modification feature of Damico to track user paths on the Web to determine the identity of the entity that directed the user to the current Web site for transactional purposes. In this regard, the Randle patent does not disclose a network comprising the Web, the Internet or any other Wide Area Network (WAN). In fact, the only network disclosed by the Randle patent appears to be the bank-centric network including the bank centric service platform, the customer and providers of non-bank information, products and services. In this regard, even if the Randle patent did disclose the Web interconnecting the bank centric service platform, the customer and providers of non-bank information, products and services, however, the bank centric service platform would not modify the address of a provider of non-bank information, products and services to identify itself since to do so would be illogical. And since the Randle patent is focused on the bank centric service platform and its operation, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify the Randle system to provide further features of the providers of non-bank information, products and services since to do so would not further advance the bank centric service platform.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that neither the Randle patent nor the Damico patent, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed invention of independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56. Also, as dependent Claims 34, 36, 38, 40, 46,

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48, 50 and 52, depend directly or indirectly from independent Claims 33, 35, 37, 39, 41-45, 47, 49, 51, 53-56, Applicants further respectfully submit that neither the Randle patent nor the Damico patent, taken individually or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed invention of dependent Claims 34, 36, 38, 40, 46, 48, 50 and 52. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 33-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome.

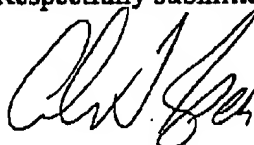
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CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,




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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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Sarah B. Simmons

May 3, 2004
Date